(c) if so, the reasons for issuing the passports to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Money spent on a Dutch Television Journalist

@1071. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have spent over Rupees one lakh on a Dutch television journalist who came to New Delhi in April to interview the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) Under the regular Ministry of External Affairs programme of invitations to prominent media personalities from abroad, Mr. Dirk Dragstra, editor of the Asian Affairs of the NOS Television Corporation of the Netherlands, visited India in March 1984 for ten days. In the course of his visit, he conducted an interview with the Prime Minister and also met a number of officials in different parts of the country.

The expenditure incurred on his visit was Rs. 35,136/- (Rupees thirty five thousand one hundred thirty six only).

(b) The visit of Mr. Dragstra has proved useful in acquainting the Dutch public with India's modern developmets and achievements.

Vilification campaign against Indians in Nigeria

@@1072. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:
SHRI BHIM RAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press report which appeared in the "Times of India" of June 13, 1984, to the effect that 50,000 Indians living in Nigeria are worried over the growing anti-Indian feeling and the campaign of vilification launched against them;

(b) whether the Government of India have taken up the matter with the Nigeria Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Special Envoy of the Prime Minister who visited Nigeria towards the end of May, 1984, had brought up the matter during discussions with the Nigerian Head of State, and with other Nigerain officials. Our High Commission in Nigeria has also taken up this issue with the Nigerian Government at various levels, and at various times. It has been reported that adverse press comments in Nigeria have greatly abated in recent months. Among the Nigerian officials and Government there does not appear to be any anti-Indian feeling, nor has any campaign of vilification been launched.

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 578, transferred from the 27th July, 1984.

@@Previously Unstarred Question No. 582, transferred from the 27th July, 1984.